

## N. Y. FIREBOATS AID AT EXPLOSION

Three Tow Lighters from  
Danger Zone — Then  
Fight Big Blaze.

FIVE CRAFT NOW LIE  
ON BOTTOM OF BAY

First Alarms Reach Two Cities  
Fire Headquarters by 'Phone  
— Men Respond Fast.

Five Jersey Central lighters, loaded with shrapnel and one-pound shells, rested last night on the bottom of New York Bay. Bell buoys and light buoys were placed around them late yesterday afternoon to warn vessels.

At 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, three fire boats of the New York Fire Department—the New Yorker, the Thomas Willett, and the William L. Strong—came back to their docks in Manhattan. They had been fighting the flames at the great Black Tom fire since half past two Sunday morning. Ten minutes after the first explosion, which rocked New York, Acting Fire Chief "Smoky Joe" Martin received a message by telephone. An excited voice informed him that there was a huge fire at Black Tom and that lighters loaded with ammunition were drifting toward this city.

Reaches Pier at 2:30.

The fireboat New Yorker, under command of Captain Edward J. Worth, chief of the marine division of the New York department, was dispatched, reaching the pier about 2:30. The Willett and the Strong went a few minutes later.

The New Yorker found two burning lighters drifting toward Ellis Island. One had come quite close to the immigration centre, and its hail of shrapnel had set the southwest wing of the hospital on fire.

With the firemen lying flat on their stomachs behind the steel bulwarks of the New Yorker, Captain Worth brought his craft close to the spitting lighter. A stream of water was turned on the craft. It finally exploded and sank.

Shells Burst Near Firemen.

The Willett and the Strong meanwhile followed other blazing barges. The firemen were under a hail of bursting shells. A clean round hole was shot through the pilot house of the Strong, and the hulls of all three boats were often splintered.

Two barges sank off the north end of Ellis Island. One lies west of it. Another went to the bottom close to the New Jersey shore, not far from the pier, and another lies a hundred yards or so off the wharf, well out in the stream. The schooner Eldridge, loaded with salt and valued at \$250,000, was towed, mastless, yesterday afternoon from her moorings at the smouldering pier.

When the New York fireboats had taken care of all the drifting barges they tied up close to the burning warehouses and turned their streams upon the flames.

Alarm by Telephone.

The first alarm was received at Jersey City Fire Headquarters by telephone. The entire Jersey City department started to the fire. The first explosion came half an hour after their work began.

After the explosion the firemen could get no city water, and were forced to use the Standard Oil Company's water supply.

A number of false alarms were received by the New York department. They were turned in by persons who believed, on account of the falling glass, that buildings were afire. A few automatic alarms are believed to have been turned in by the air pressure from the explosion.

Fire Commissioner Adamson went to Jersey City at 8 o'clock yesterday morning and again in the afternoon.

Cannot Estimate Damage.

"It is almost impossible now to ascertain why the fire started," said he last night at his home, 215 West 101st Street. "It had been burning almost an hour before the first firemen reached it."

"The men who were actually fighting the flames could no more tell the progress of their efforts than they could the origin. I cannot estimate the damage. I am sure the figure first set, \$7,000,000, is trifling. I saw masses on the pier, machinery, automobiles—'one little Oakland in a crate, riddled by bullets—magazines, salt, sugar, and tons of tobacco. Hundreds of shells were scattered about. In one place smokeless powder had burned and lay like sand, two or three inches deep. The wreckage stretched half a mile."

## TELEPHONE CENTRALS ESCAPE REAL DAMAGE

Only One Small Cable from Jersey City Injured.

Stories that the explosion had put some of the telephone central stations out of commission were denied yesterday at the office of the New York Telephone Company. Wire Chief Thompson said that no part of the system had been damaged except a small cable from the Jersey City exchange feeding the Black Tom section. To demonstrate that the exchanges were working all right, the wire chief called up Jersey City, Bergen and Bayonne, the three exchanges most likely to be affected, and verified his statement that there was nothing wrong with those parts of the system.

## CARRANZA TO RETIRE, MEXICANS DECLARE

Will Resign as First Chief and Run for President.

Laredo, Tex., July 30.—Venustiano Carranza is to retire as First Chief of the de facto government of Mexico at an early date, and will be succeeded by General Pablo Gonzalez, according to information given out by Mexican administrative circles in Nuevo Laredo to-night.

General Carranza will enter the field as a Presidential candidate at the forthcoming general election, it is said, apparently confirming recent unofficial advice from Mexico City, which intimated that the First Chief would seek elevation to the Presidency at the hands of the voters.

Stake Boat Saves Dock Sleeper.  
James Igoo, forty-two years old, of 244 Fourth Street, Jersey City, was sleeping on the dock at the foot of Essex Street, when the Black Tom explosion rolled him over the edge. Luckily the stake boat C. S. Ross was moored there and he dropped on its deck instead of into the water.



# Fathers-Mothers Citizens, Everywhere Attention!

THE President of the United States, facing a crisis with Mexico has concentrated on the Mexican border an army of 140,000 men. 100,000 of this force are civilian soldiers now experiencing trying and unusual conditions for the first time.

When the call came to mobilize, a great wave of enthusiasm swept across this Nation. The boys of the big, busy cities and the little cities and the quiet country towns dropped their work and their fun, turned their backs on home comforts and entrained for their camps. From there, quickly whipped into shape, they were hurried west, east and south to the danger points on the border.

They are there now, prepared and perfecting their preparedness to do this Nation's work, to uphold this Nation's need and honor.

Fortunately their business has so far been peaceful. No great war danger threatens at the moment. But, experienced military men and many citizens realize the serious dangers of loneliness in a desolate land that inevitably will assail these boys from home.

YOUR pulses stirred as you saw them marching from their armories to the trains that took them away. THEY felt the thrill and pride of their calling. Their backbones were strong and straight. They were capable men.

Now they are grouped in headquarters camps, fighting the heat and dust and mud, drilling and working in camp or scattered along the Mexican border miles from the railroad; a thin khaki line doing lonely outpost duty in the sage brush, cactus and sand, alternated with long hours of nothing to do.

The Government has provided amply of

good stout clothing, substantial soldierly food, and good camp equipment. For the rest these sons and brothers and friends of yours are thrown on their own resources.

Aside from the routine work and drill their social life is pitifully thin and monotonous. Here lies the great danger to them. An army always attracts swarms of camp followers. Men and women parasites who profit on the loneliness of the boys, their longing for entertainment. Remember these boys are used to the diversion of their work, the city streets and shops, the eating places, the recreation of the parks and country places, of music, reading or the neighborhood movies. In spite of all the authorities can do, our border force already is assailed by the severest temptations that designing people can throw in their way. Saloons, gambling hells and worse places are housed in shacks or adobe houses.

The Y. M. C. A. is making it its business to bring to the boys at the front as much of social comfort as the conditions of the country and funds available will permit.

It is erecting and equipping as rapidly as possible branch Association buildings all along the boundary from Brownsville on the gulf to San Diego on the Pacific.

These buildings are large frame structures varying in size with the strength of the military command.

The buildings provide reading and writing room, magazines, books, letter paper, etc., lectures, concerts, talking machines, indoor and outdoor games, motion picture entertainments, a never-empty barrel of ice water, a

center of moral and religious influence, good fellowship and good cheer.

Broad gauge men are in charge ready to lend a hand or help a fellow man.

Here is a time and place for real work for every thoughtful man and woman of this land.

More buildings are needed. More money is needed. Five thousand dollars will build, equip and pay the running expenses of a branch for six months. Two thousand dollars will erect a building and pay for its equipment. Twenty-five more branches should be put in operation at once. This work needs your support and that of every citizen in the United States regardless of race or creed.

You can help! Will you? Will you give a building or send \$10 or \$5 or \$1 Will you invest that much today in the Master's work?

ARMY AND NAVY DEPARTMENT,

International Committee of  
Young Men's Christian Associations.

Men of wealth have given us the funds to start. To keep on, to successfully accomplish this great enterprise, that will mean comfort, friendship and social rest for 140,000 American citizens who are ready to lay down their lives for our Nation should be counted a great popular and personal privilege. Men! Women! don't delay! Won't you send your contribution NOW! Money is needed NOW! The soldiers need you NOW! Please use the coupon.

B. H. Fancher,  
Treasurer,

International  
Committee

Y. M. C. A.

124 East 28th Street  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Enclosed find \$..... toward the expenses of the Young Men's Christian Association work among the troops on the Mexican border.

Name .....

Address .....